



REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, in view of the following remarks.

Figures 3 and 5 are not considered in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5).

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Aoshima et al. (U.S. Patent 6,046,892).

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Figures 3 and 5 objection under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5)

The Examiner contends that Figures 3 and 5 fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include a reference numeral 51 not mentioned in the description.

Applicants are at a complete loss to understand this objection. As originally filed on Jan 06, 2000, Applicants' copy of the application has only four figures (1, 2, 3A, 3B, and 4) and no Figure 5. None of Applicants' figures has any reference to a numeral 51. Applicants request that Examiner please re-check the file and if the Examiner has a Figure 3 and Figure 5 referring to numeral 51 that the Examiner forward such to Applicants as something appears amiss.

Applicants' believe the application as originally filed on Jan 06, 2000 complies with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) and request the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claim 1-4 rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 as being anticipated by Aoshima et al. (Aoshima) (U.S. Patent 6,046,892). The Examiner states:

Aoshima et al disclose a spin valve magnetoresistance sensor {20}, including a base layer {21,22} on top of a substrate {inherent from "substrate", column 1, line 36}, the base layer including a first base film {21} and a second base film {22} formed on top of the first base film {21}, the second base film {22} having an alloy ("NiFeCr" in Figure 5) represented by NiFeX wherein X includes one of Cr, Nb and Rh, the second base film having a face-centered cubic (fcc) structure and a (111) orientation {inherent from "NiFeCr24.3%(3)" in Figure 5}.

(Office Action page 2. Emphasis added.)

Applicants' claim 1 recites, among other things, "the second base film having an alloy represented by NiFeX, wherein X includes one of Cr, Nb, and Rh, the second base film having a face-centered cubic (fcc) structure and a (111) orientation".

(Emphasis added.)

Applicants disagree with Examiner's "inherent" statement regarding Aoshima of "face-centered cubic (fcc) structure and a (111) orientation {inherent from "NiFeCr24.3%(3)" in Figure 5}. (Emphasis added.)

Aoshima, describes anti-ferromagnetic layer 23 in Figure 5 as having a FCC (face centered cubic) structure. Aoshima states, "It should be noted that the PdPtMn

anti-ferromagnetic layer 23, which is initially composed of disordered-alloy and has little FCC structure, does not show an anti-ferromagnetic characteristic immediately after sputtering. Only after the PdPtMn layer 23 goes through an annealing process, in which the PdPtMn becomes an ordered-alloy and has the FCC structure, that an anti-ferromagnetic characteristic is displayed.” (Aoshima, column 5, lines 5-12.) Aoshima is describing layer 23 in Figure 5, not layer 22 in Figure 5 which is the NiFeCr layer.

In contrast, Applicants’ claim 1 recites, among other things, the second base film “an alloy represented by NiFeX, wherein X includes one of Cr, Nb, and Rh, the second base film” as “having a face-centered cubic (fcc) structure”. (Emphasis added.) This is different than Aoshima because the PdPtMn anti-ferromagnetic layer 23 in Figure 5 of Aoshima, is not the same as the base film alloy NiFeX as in Applicants’ claim 1.

Aoshima does not show, disclose, or suggest this element of Applicants’ claim 1. Thus, Applicants’ claim 1, and claims which depend on it, are not anticipated by the cited art. For this reason alone, claim 1, and claims dependent on it, are allowable over the cited art.

Furthermore, Applicant’s claim 1 recites among other things, “a (111) orientation” for the base film alloy NiFeX. Nowhere does Aoshima discuss a (111) orientation. Aoshima does not show, disclose, or suggest this element of Applicants’ claim 1. Thus, Applicants’ claim 1, and claims which depend on it, are not anticipated by the cited art. For this additional reason, claim 1, and all claims dependent on claim 1, are allowable over the cited art.



CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

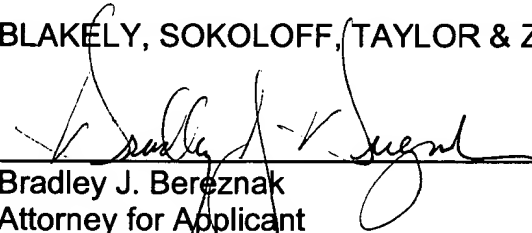
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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: _____

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